

[Alabama](#)

Homelessness in Alabama dropped 13 percent in 1 year



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Alabama's homeless population decreased by 13 percent between 2014 and 2015, according to data released today the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Nationally, there has been an overall 11 percent decrease and 26 percent drop in the unsheltered homeless population since 2010, HUD announced. In that same time, there has been a 34 percent drop in homelessness in Alabama alone.

"The Obama Administration has made an historic commitment to effectively end homelessness in this nation. Together with our partners across the federal government and communities from coast to coast, we have made tremendous progress toward our ambitious goals.

"But our work is far from finished. We have to continue making smart investments in the strategies that work so that everyone has a place to call home," HUD Secretary Julian Castro said in a press release.

The data comes from the annual Point in Time count that was conducted in January.

That count found 3,970 homeless people in Alabama. That is less than 1 percent of state's population and marks a drop from the 4,561 homeless people found in an Alabama count in 2014.

Of those counted in 2015, 2,868 were homeless individuals and another 1,102 were part of homeless families.

The count found 607 chronically homeless people, meaning they have been continuously homeless for more than a year. It also found 474 homeless veterans and 228 homeless, unaccompanied youths.

Of the 3970 homeless people, 2,943 were staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs or "safe havens," long-term housing for those with severe mental illness. The other 1,027 were considered "unsheltered."

The majority of the homeless counted in January -- 1,153 people -- were in the Birmingham metro area.

Another 578 were found in the Mobile area; 441 in the Montgomery area; and 420 in the Huntsville area.

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